

It is my understanding, that the National Association of Broadcasters is attempting to stifle, and thus eliminate competition by pushing through a petition 04-160 which would eliminate traffic and weather reports currently running on XM Satellite Radio service. As a loyal subscriber, I object to any practice that limits our right of free speech. This attempt is one in a long history of such attempts to eliminate competition of a provider of a superior product. Were it not for satellite radio, we would very seldom listen to "over the air" radio at all. The only stations worth listening to any more are NPR stations that come over the air. Commercial radio has in my opinion suffered greatly in recent years. The reason is when a few corporations control all the outlets, diversity, variety, and imagination tend to be the victims. Such is the case with commercial radio at this point. We live in a large market (Kansas City Metropolitan Area) and so there are many stations available here. The trouble is, they all sound the same. Boring, and repetitive. Lack of imaginative programming, and original ideas, has made most radio obsolete. Enter Satellite radio. True, it too is owned by some large corporations, yet, at this point, it possesses imaginative programming offering a variety of services, at a reasonable price. I am more than happy to spend a few dollars per month to receive good sounding well thought out service.

Isn't that what this country is all about? Competition is, and has always been healthy for the consumer. Let the market sort out who stays and who goes. Don't let some rich organization "step on" an up and coming service with much potential.

Instead, if these stations are scared they will lose market share, let them improve their formats, and maybe then they will be able to compete with a far superior Satellite service.

Mike Malotte